



SEPTEMBER 2003



IN RECOGNITION OF OMBUDSMAN  
APPRECIATION DAY  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12



### History of the Ombudsman Program

Provided by "Naval Base Ventura County Newsletter"  
July/August/September 2001

The conceptual roots of the program are found in nineteenth century Scandinavia, when ombudsman positions were established to give ordinary private citizens access to express their concerns to high government officials. Always accessible, the Ombudsman acted as a trouble-shooter, advocate, intercessor and interpreter. The ombudsman concept was first adapted for the United States Navy by Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Zumwalt in Z-gram 24 issued in 1970. Originally, the wives' club elected the Ombudsman. In 1973, this was changed by OPNAVINST 1750.1D, which established that the Ombudsman was to be appointed by the Commanding Officer.

In 1974, a logo was designed to symbolize the key elements of the Ombudsman Program. The map of the United States imposed over the map of Sweden indicates the country of origin from which we modified and adapted the program to meet the needs of the families of the United States Navy. The lightning bolt stresses the importance of rapid communication to the commander, the ombudsman and the families. The twenty-four stars symbolize Z-gram 24, which originated the program.

**I Am An Ombudsman**  
**I am not a crutch**  
**But I can support you**  
**I am not a counselor**  
**But I know one**  
**I am not a taxi driver**  
**But I can steer you in the right direction**  
**I am not a rescuer**  
**But I can help save lives**  
**I am not a babysitter**  
**But I can refer you to a caregiver**  
**I am not a gossip**  
**But I am a great listener**  
**I am not an enabler**  
**But I can provide tools to empower you**  
**I am not a master of anything**  
**But I know many experts who understand your needs**  
**I am not a Recreation or Health Specialist**  
**But I am concerned about your Morale, Welfare and Health**

**I am not a busybody as I've been called**  
**But I am an Official Command Representative**  
**I am a Navy Family Ombudsman**  
**And I am of service to you...The Navy Family**

*By Gayle Brinkley, Former Ombudsman  
Coordinator, FFSC London*

### **NSA Mid-South Ombudsman** **"Your Direct Link"**

- ❖ Navy Personnel Command  
Beverly Ann Teichs
- ❖ Naval Reserve Readiness Command  
Linden Butler
- ❖ Navy Recruiting Command  
Maureen "Mo" Gray
- ❖ Branch Medical Clinic  
Melinda Tomlin

Be sure to let your Ombudsman know you appreciate all he/she does for Navy Families at your command.

Fleet and Family Support Center  
presents the following classes:

**Resumix Workshop**

**16 September**

**1330 - 1530**

Applying for Federal Employment with the Department of the Navy can be confusing. This workshop walks you through the basics of applying through the automated resumix system. There are tips on what to include and what not to include in the online application and insights into how the resumix system selects qualified candidates. Seating is limited so contact Brenda Sherman at 874-5330 to register.

**Sponsor Training Workshop**

**18 September**

**1100 - 1200**

The Command Sponsor Program is designed to facilitate the adaptation of the service member and family members to a new working and living environment. A good sponsor helps to expedite the newcomer's ability to become a productive member of the receiving command. This training will teach sponsors how to assist incoming personnel to overcome relocation difficulties and apprehension associated with the PCS move. Each command should have their assigned sponsors attend this training. Contact Linda Busby at 874-5075 to register.

**FLEET AND FAMILY SUPPORT  
CENTER**

**Classes and workshops are free; however,  
registration is necessary. Call 874-5075 or  
email us at [ffsc@nsams.navy.mil](mailto:ffsc@nsams.navy.mil)  
to register**

**Transition Assistance Program**

**(TAP)** provides information and assistance to all retiring and separating members regarding pre-separation counseling, employment, relocation and veteran's benefits. Military members and their spouses are encouraged to attend a TAP seminar as soon as possible prior to their scheduled separation or retirement date. See your Command Career Counselor to register.

**2002 - 2003 TAP SCHEDULE**

Sept. 8 - 12 (Exec)

Oct. 6 - 10

**New Hours**

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society  
new hours of operation are  
Tues-Wed-Thurs 0900 - 1300  
Emergencies anytime.



***Fleet and Family Support Center***

**Naval Support Activity Mid-South  
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Millington, Tennessee 38054-5045  
Local: (901) 874-5075  
DSN: 882-5075  
Fax: (901) 874-5556**

**LABOR DAY IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2003**